



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Seskéha/August 19, 2016

Jo-Ellen Darcy
United States Assistant Secretary of the Army

Colonel John W. Henderson
Commander and District Engineer, Omaha District
The Army Corps of Engineers

Tekwanonhwerá:tons sewakwé:kon/Greetings to you all,

On behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), we stand in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) in opposing the environmental impacts of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)—a construction project located within their ancestral territory that was developed without proper consultation and consent. The DAPL poses an immediate threat to the public health and general welfare of the Standing Rock Sioux. As a show of support, we have passed and enclosed the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Resolution (2016-64) in opposition of the pipeline project and calls for the federal government to fully exercise its trust responsibility by rejecting the DAPL.

As Onkwéhon:we (Original People), we have an immense responsibility to preserve and protect the environment for our future generations and for species that cannot speak for themselves. These are our original instructions, as bestowed upon us by our Creator that teaches us to live in a harmonious and respectful relationship with the natural world. Thus, plans to transport 570,000 barrels of crude oil per day across rivers and lands within close proximity of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation directly threatens the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal responsibility for their people and environment. It directly interferes with their authority to administer the affairs of the Tribe and to manage, protect and preserve natural resources for the benefit of their tribal members.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is a signatory to the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 and the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868; which provides for the “undisturbed use and occupation” of the Great Sioux Reservation. It is the permanent homeland for the bands of the Great Sioux Nation, who witnessed oil spills, upstream from the Standing Rock Reservation, in October 2013 and in July 2010. All of these events clearly demonstrate the dangers of oil and gas pipelines, such as the Dakota Access, to downstream communities, fish and wildlife. Representatives of the Dakota Access Pipeline are inconsiderate of the jeopardy the pipeline project poses to the very survival of the Standing Rock Sioux.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council’s call upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reject the river crossing permit for the Dakota Access Pipeline under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Tribal Council also calls upon the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, as the

Chief Ron LaFrance Jr.
Chief Eric Thompson
Chief Beverly Cook
Sub-Chief Michael L. Conners
Sub-Chief Cheryl Jacobs
Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs

institutional officer primarily responsible for the implementation of the Federal Trust responsibility to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, to fully exercise the trust responsibility and ensure that the federal government rejects the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is mindful that in November 2000, the United States President signed Executive Order 13175 to strengthen this country's relationship with tribal governments, which requires regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration on federal actions that have tribal implications.

Additionally, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), supported by U.S. President Barack Obama in December 2010, requires free, prior and informed consent for development impacting tribal lands, territories and waters. As a result, we urge the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to immediately engage in meaningful and good-faith talks with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on the Dakota Access Pipeline Project.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe supports our brothers and sisters of the Standing Rock Sioux in their effort to collectively resolve this assault upon their protected rights and interests through a respectful and peaceful manner. We encourage their continued use of the legacy of peace to voice their opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Skén:nen/ In peace,

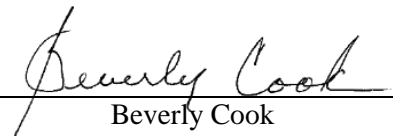
THE SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COUNCIL



Ron LaFrance, Jr.
Tribal Chief



Eric Thompson
Tribal Chief



Beverly Cook
Tribal Chief



Michael Conners, Jr.
Sub-Chief



Cheryl Jacobs
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